

St. Ann's Church,
Bronx, New York City.

HABS No. ~~4-25~~ NY-133

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NY,
31-NEYO,
4-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

District No. 4
Southern New York State

REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

Historic American Buildings Survey
Mr. Dewey Foster, District Officer
25 West 45th Street, New York City

HABS
NY,
31-NEYO,
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ST. ANN'S CHURCH
St. Ann's Avenue at East 140th Street
Borough of Manhattan, New York County, New York

Owner:

St. Ann's Church

Date of Erection:

1840

Architect:

Unknown

Builder:

Gouverneur Morris (Provided funds for the building and presented
it to the Congregation when finished)

Present Condition:

Good

Number of Stories:

One

Materials of Construction:

Exterior foundation walls built of stone; walls of the
crypt are brick

Floors - white marble and wood

Interior walls - plaster

Exterior walls - stone with brick quoins around the windows

Present roof - tar paper over wood shingles

Other Existing Records:

None

Additional Data:

<u>Year:</u>	<u>Record:</u>	<u>Reference:</u>
1670	This site was part of the farm of Jonas Bronck, the first white settler north of the Harlem River. Purchased from him by Captain Richard Morris, first proprietor of the Manor of Morrisania in 1670.	Recorded in Booklet Published by St. Ann's Church
1700	Property passed to Judge Lewis Morris, Lord to of the Manor of Morrieania, in the early part	Record of conveyance not on file
1800	of the 18th Century.	
	Passed to Gouverneur Morris during the latter part of the 18th Century.	
1806	Gouverneur Morris passed the property to his wife, Ann C. Morris.	Mentioned as conveyed in 1806 in next conveyance by Ann C. Morris
1835.	March 31. Ann C. Morris, widow of Gouverneur Morris, of Morrisania, released her claim to the property and conveyed it to her son, Gouverneur Morris.	Hall of Records Liber 67 Conveyances P 372 Weetchester Records, Bronx County Court House, Bronx, N. Y.
1840	Gouverneur Morris erected a church to the memory of his mother, Ann C. Morris, on this site.	
1841	July 17. Gouverneur Morris, who had erected a church at his own expense on this site, conveyed the completed edifice to the Rector, Church Wardene and Vestrymen of St. Ann's Church at Morrisania.	H of R L 93 Conveyances P 688 Westchester Records, Bronx County Court House, Bronx, N. Y.
1936	St. Ann's Protestant Episcopal Church has remained the owner of this site to the present day, using it as a house of worship.	


Nixon E. Paulk (Author)

Approved: January 29, 1937

Wakefield Worcester, District Officer

(over)

We feel that this building was never used as intended by its designer. The plan is a typical form, a Latin cross, ideally proportioned as between space for chancel, transepts, and nave, but the space where the chancel should be is used as a choir room, etc., so that the altar is pushed forward, the chancel eliminated, and the choir forced into the nave.

Viewed from the exterior, it is altogether charming and one is very much surprised and disappointed with the interior because of this failure to use the plan properly.

In type, it is Gothic Revival resembling small English Country churches. The tower, however, has Renaissance rather than Gothic characteristics.

It is also like an English country church, in that the funds for its building and, undoubtedly, for its maintenance were supplied at first by one man, Gouverneur Morris, and later by the Morris family, very much as was the case with the country squires of England.

Wakefield Worcester
Wakefield Worcester, District Officer

June 24, 1937